



Office of the Principal
PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AFTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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JOSEPH P. MASGAI, Ed.D.
Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please join me in celebrating Afton Elementary School's nomination by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a candidate for designation as a National Blue Ribbon School. According to the letter invitation that I received from Aba Kumi, Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program at the U.S. Department of Education, "National Blue Ribbon Schools are public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students. They have demonstrated consistent excellence, and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools recognition program is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about effective school leadership and promising instructional practices."

This is quite an honor to have been invited to apply for Blue Ribbon status and the Afton team has been diligent behind the scenes to complete the exhaustive application process. Our deadline for submission is March 29th. In my tenth year as principal, I credit this nomination to the strategic collaboration of the teachers and staff that ensures the academic growth of each student. At Afton we habitually "link arms" to review data and reflect on our delivery practices to meet continuously the needs of our students. This requires hard work and grit, but the committed teachers of Afton embrace these practices as daily habit.

I am thrilled to be nominated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Afton is one of only thirteen schools from the 501 school districts across the state to have been nominated. Once the application is filed the selection process will begin and not until August will Blue Ribbon designees be announced. I am optimistically hopeful that Afton will be one of those schools elevated to Blue Ribbon status.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Masgai, Ed.D.

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Principal